



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
San Antonio Fire Department – Fire Prevention Division
MEMORANDUM



TO: San Antonio Fire Department and Planning and Development Services
Department Associates

FROM: Earl Crayton, II – Assistant Chief – SAFD, Fire Marshal

DATE: March 25, 2010

FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2010-008

TITLE: Fire Extinguisher Requirements for R-2 Occupancies

CODE EDITION: 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) as adopted and amended by the
City of San Antonio

NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers

SECTION: 2009 International Fire Code, *Section 906 Portable Fire Extinguishers*

PURPOSE: Clarification of code requirements for fire extinguishers in R-2 occupancies.

QUESTION 1: The fire code states that the maximum travel distance to a fire extinguisher is limited to 75 feet. The closest extinguisher in my complex is within 75 feet from all portions of my unit but is upstairs. Can I travel up or down stairs and still meet the travel distance requirements?

ANSWER 1: No. The NFPA 10 Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers requires that the area protected and the travel distance be measured per each floor level.
(5.1.4)

QUESTION 2: Theft of extinguishers in common areas is a problem we are dealing with at our apartment complex. Can we install fire extinguishers in each individual apartment unit instead?

ANSWER 2: Yes. We have allowed this option in previous IFC code amendment additions (2003) and this has been past practice. We consider this option to be an acceptable code equivalency as it meets the intent of Section 906.

QUESTION 3: If I choose the option of providing extinguishers for every unit, what are the size and maintenance requirements?

ANSWER 3: A 1A10BC fire extinguisher can be installed instead of the minimum 2A10BC extinguisher required under IFC 906. It should be installed in an easily accessible area such as under the kitchen sink. The maintenance requirements are governed by NFPA 10. Inspections should be conducted at least monthly and maintenance is required yearly. "Fire extinguishers shall be subjected to maintenance at intervals of not more than 1 year." NFPA 10, 6.3.1.

Installation, service and maintenance must be in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Insurance Code Article 5.43-1 and the Fire Extinguisher Rules 28 TAC 34.500 of the State Fire Marshal's Office, Texas Department of Insurance. Installation, service, and maintenance must be conducted by an individual licensed through the state of Texas.

QUESTION 4: Can I install the non-rechargeable type of extinguisher if I install one in every apartment unit.

ANSWER 4: Yes. However the maintenance and inspection requirements of NFPA 10 still apply. Even the non-rechargeable type extinguishers must have the mechanical parts examined externally at the 1 year interval. NFPA 10, 6.2 *Inspection* and NFPA 10, 6.3 *Maintenance*



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